

THOUSAND SPRINGS & AMERICAN FALLS GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS

Potential Ground Water Rights Impact Areas

The land area of the Ground Water Management Areas is much larger than the actual areas where ground water rights may be curtailed. There is no plan at this time to curtail all ground water rights through the entire GWMA.

The Thousand Springs GWMA covers some 340,000 acres of land. Initial estimates are that approximately 34,500 acres of land will be impacted.

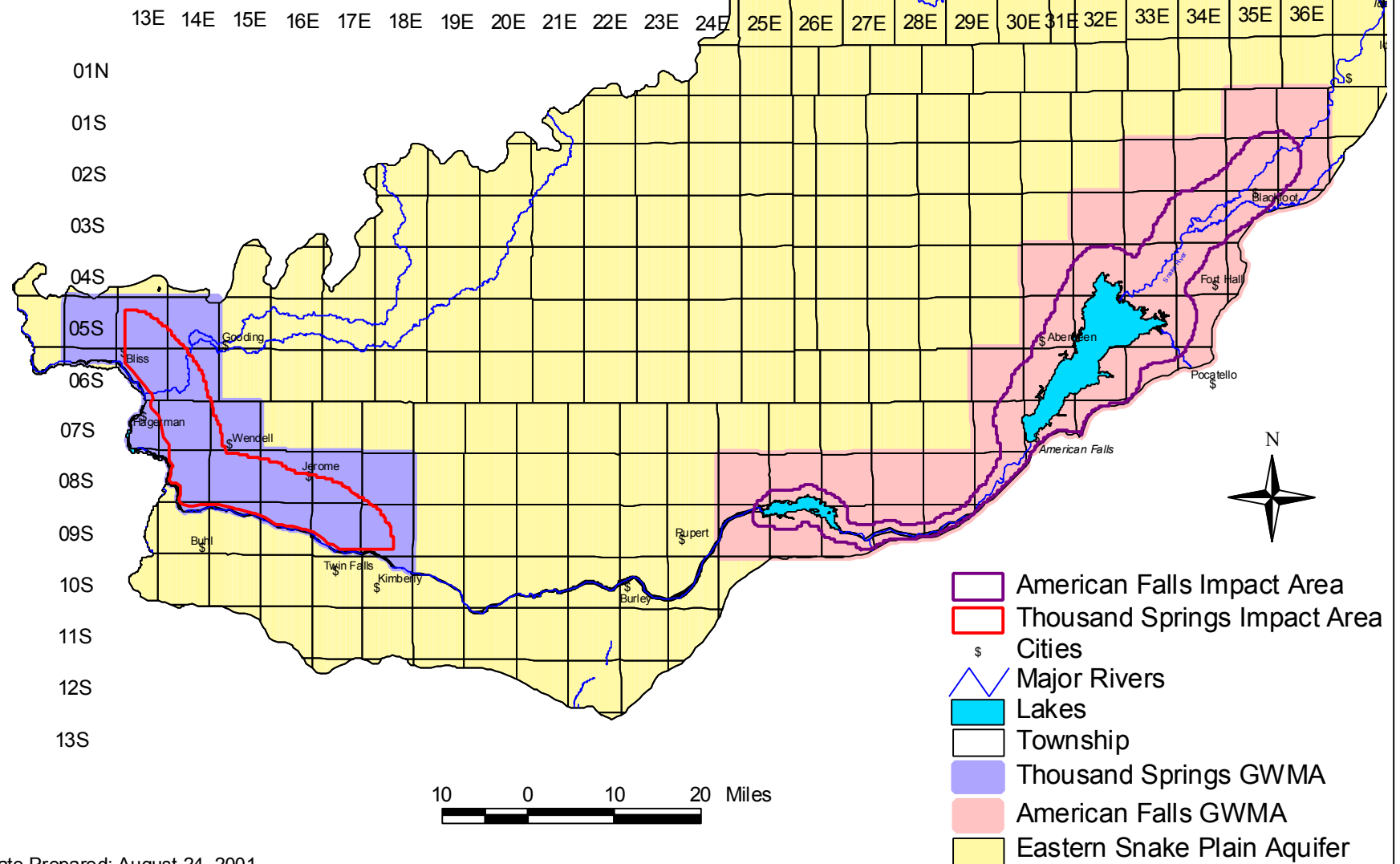
The American Falls GWMA covers some 776,000 acres of land. Preliminary estimates are that approximately 50,500 acres of land will be impacted.

The colored lines inside the GWMA's in the map below outline the potential impact areas where ground water rights will most likely be curtailed. Initial estimates are that approximately 1,000 water rights in the two GWMA's combined face curtailment.

IDWR is using a sophisticated computer-modeling program to determine exactly which water rights need to be curtailed to produce the increase in spring flows to the river. The modeling program is based on a 3-mile grid system. To determine which rights to curtail, the grid system starts roughly at the edge of the river and move outwards in 3-mile segments on one or both sides of the river. That means, in essence, that the closer a ground water diversion is to the river, the greater likelihood it will be curtailed.

The first ground water rights to be curtailed will be those that are inside the 0-3 mile grid. If curtailing those rights does not produce the necessary increase in spring flows, then a second 3-mile grid would be added. That would mean ground water rights in the 3-6 mile area could also be curtailed.

Ground Water Impact Areas Within Thousand Springs and American Falls Ground Water Management Areas



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